

CONFIDENTIALCOCOM Document No. 3949

April 6, 1960

COORDINATING COMMITTEE

MEMORANDUM FROM THE UNITED STATES DELEGATION

CONCERNING

THE TEXT OF ATOMIC ENERGY LIST ITEM 13

REFERENCE: COCOM Document 3927

1. The United States Delegation referred to their authorities the problems raised during the March 17 discussion of AE Item 13. Their authorities have carefully examined both the English and French texts and have instructed the United States Delegation to inform the Committee that they believe the present English text (with the deletion of the words "magnesium oxide" from line 3) provides the embargo coverage dictated by strategic considerations. The United States authorities believe that the Committee intended that AE Item 13 should embargo refractory materials when they contain 97 percent or more, by weight, of beryllium oxide or zirconium oxide, or containing any amount of zirconium oxide stabilized with lime or magnesium oxide.

2. Beryllium oxide and zirconium oxide are specially used for high purity crucibles in casting plutonium and uranium metal for military applications. Zirconium oxide is stabilized with lime or magnesium oxide to improve its thermal expansion properties and to inhibit harmful reactions.

3. To avoid possible misunderstanding, the two texts might be stated as follows:

"Materials, suitable for use in refractories, containing:

- a) 97 percent or more, by weight, of beryllium oxide or zirconium oxide or
- b) zirconium oxide stabilized with lime and/or magnesium oxide;

and crucibles, moulds and pouring rods containing any one of the foregoing."

"Matériaux, pouvant servir pour les réfractaires, contenant:

- 97% ou plus, en poids, d'oxyde de béryllium ou d'oxyde de zirconium;
- l'oxyde de zirconium stabilisé par de la chaux et/ou de l'oxyde de magnésium;

et creusets, moules et barreaux contenant de l'une des substances ci-dessus."